THE

# REPORT

OF THE

## COMMITTEE OF VISITORS

OF THE

## West-Riding

PAUPER

# LUNATIC ASYLUM,

For the Year 1854.

*Presented to the Court at Wakefield Sessions, 2nd January, 1855.*

Wakefield:

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## WEST-RIDING PAUPER LUNATIC ASYLUM FOR THE YEAR 1854.

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Health of Patients. During the past year (1854) the Asylum has been favoured by an absence of epidemic diseases.

Admissions. The admissions during the year have been:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Males ..... | 157 |
| Females ..... | 171 |
| Total ..... | 328 |

Deaths. The deaths have amounted:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Males ..... | 61 |
| Females ..... | 53 |
| Total ..... | 114 |

Discharges.

The discharges have been as follows :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Males ..... | 80 |
| Females ..... | 77 |
| Total ..... | 157 |

Number of Patients in the Institution.

The number of Patients in the Asylum on the 31st December last was as follows :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Males ..... | 357 |
| Females ..... | 408 |
| Total ..... | 765 |

Weekly charges.

The present weekly charge for the maintenance of patients is 7s.

Among the admissions, a large proportion of the patients have been sent in such an extremely feeble state, mental and bodily, as to preclude recovery.

Increase of Patients and consequent additions and alterations.

In the last year's Report, the Committee alluded to the great increase of Patients, and it has since been found necessary to provide additional accommodation. Alterations for this purpose have been made both in the Old and in the New Building, by which room has been obtained for sixty more Patients, at an outlay of about £1000.

The removal of the circular staircases in the Old Building has materially improved the general appearance, and at the same time afforded the requisite

accommodation at a moderate cost. Had the Committee been obliged to build, the outlay would not have been less than £6000.

Airing Courts.

The airing courts have also been much enlarged by the removal of useless partition walls.

Division of Sexes.

The contemplated division of the two sexes has been carried out, the males being kept in the Old Building and the females in the New. This arrangement is calculated to do much good, as more efficient surveillance may be exercised by the Superintendent and Matron, one residing in each building.

Baths and Washhouses

A limited number of baths, washing rooms and water closets, have been provided; but more are required to render complete the comfort and cleanliness of so large a number of patients.

Water supply.

The Committee regret to state that the supply of water to the Institution, formerly so abundant, has failed during the past year, and it has consequently been found necessary to resort to the Wakefield Water Works Company. The expense thus caused to the Institution is very considerable, and it may probably become a subject for consideration how far it would be judicious to sink lower the present wells; the coal pits being so near on the one side, and there being a prospect of other pits being sunk on the Stanley estate.

New rules. In accordance with the announcement made by the Committee in their last Report, they have revised the rules for the regulation of the Asylum. These rules have already received the sanction of the Commissioners in Lunacy, and are about to be submitted to the Secretary of State for his approval.

H. W. WICKHAM,

*Chairman.*

R. HURST, PRINTER, WESTGATE, WAKEFIELD.